

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A powered appliance for use by an operator, the powered appliance comprising:

a frame;

wheels movably supporting the frame;

a ~~working member~~ blade movably supported by the frame;

a substantially horizontal handle extending along a first axis and coupled to the blade ~~working member~~; and

a ~~kill bar control movable~~ having an end portion extending along a second axis parallel to the first axis and pivotable about a third axis parallel to the first axis and the second axis between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the blade ~~working member~~ is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the blade ~~working member~~ is at least reduced; and, wherein one of the handle and the control is configured to at least partially receive the other of the handle and the control prior to compression of the handle or the control when in the first position and wherein at least one of the handle and the control includes a flexible material adjacent the other of the handle and the control, the flexible

a layer of compressible material being configured to deform or compress under the normal amount of force the operator could continuously apply to the flexible material layer during the period of time the powered appliance would normally be used during one session, wherein the flexible material layer partially extends about one of the handle and the kill bar forms to form a channel extending parallel to first axis and the second axis and configured to receive the other of the handle and the control prior to movement of the control to the first position wherein the channel is located and oriented to receive the other of the

handle and the kill bar without substantial deformation of the layer when the kill bar is in the first position.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the ~~flexible material is~~ layer is formed from a foam.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the layer extends about the handle ~~wherein said one of the handle and control forms a channel configured to receive the other of the handle and the control.~~

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the powered appliance comprises a lawnmower ~~and wherein the working member comprises a blade.~~

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the kill bar control comprises a bale arm.

14. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein movement of the blade working member is ceased when the ~~control~~ kill bar is in the second position.

15. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein power to the blade working member is reduced when the ~~control~~ kill bar is in the second position.

16. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the kill bar control member is biased towards the second position.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for equipping and operating a powered appliance including a frame, wheels supporting the frame, a blade working member, a handle coupled to the blade working member, and a control kill bar ~~movable~~ pivotal between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the blade working member is permitted and a second position distant to the handle in which movement of the blade working member is at least reduced, the method comprising:

providing a tube having a compressible outer surface, an inner cavity, and an opening communicating with the inner cavity, the compressible outer surface being configured to compress so as to occupy a reduced volume under the normal amount of force an operator of the powered appliance could continuously apply to the compressible outer surface during the period of time the powered appliance would normally be used during one session;

inserting one of the handle and the ~~control~~ kill bar through the opening into the inner cavity; and

moving the kill bar control to the first position adjacent the tube such that at least a portion of the kill bar control is within the opening and is surrounded by the outer surface.

26. (Cancelled)
27. (Cancelled).
28. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the opening comprises a longitudinal slit.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends at least 120 degrees about the control after the kill bar control has been moved to the first position.
30. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends at least 180 degrees about the control after the control has been moved to the first position.
31. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the outer surface extends at least 270 degrees about the control after the control has been moved to the first position.
32. (Cancelled)
33. (Cancelled)
34. (Cancelled)
35. (Canceled)
36. (Currently Amended) A method for equipping and operating an a powered appliance including a frame, wheels supporting the frame, a blade ~~working member~~, a handle coupled to the blade ~~working member~~, and a ~~control~~ kill bar movable between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the blade ~~working member~~ is permitted and a second position distant to the handle in which movement of the blade ~~working member~~ is at least reduced, the method comprising:

providing a flexible member having a first end and a second opposite end, the flexible member being configured to deform under the normal amount of force an operator of the powered appliance could continuously apply to the flexible member during the period of time the powered appliance would normally be used during one session;

wrapping the flexible member about one of the handle and the kill bar control; securing the first and second ends relative to one another about said one of the handle and the kill bar control; and

moving the kill bar control to the first position adjacent the flexible member such that at least a portion of the control is surrounded by the flexible member, wherein the wrapping operation includes spacing the first and second ends from one another to form a gap therebetween and wherein the operation of moving the kill bar control includes positioning the other of the handle and the kill bar control within the gap.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36 37, wherein the flexible member outer surface extends at least 120 degrees about the kill bar control after the kill bar control has been moved to the first position.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36 37, wherein the outer surface extends at least 180 degrees about the kill bar control after the kill bar control has been moved to the first position.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36 37, wherein the flexible member extends at least 270 degrees about the kill bar control after the kill bar control has been moved to the first position.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The method of Claim 36, wherein the securing operation includes releasably coupling the first end to the second end.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member includes an inner surface and outer surface and wherein the securing operation includes adhering the inner surface to said one of the handle and the kill bar control.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member has an inner surface including means for preventing movement of the flexible member relative to said one of the handle and the kill bar control.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the layer flexible material is releasably coupled to the at least one of the handle and the kill bar control.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the channel passes completely through the layer flexible material.

53. (Currently Amended) The appliance of Claim 1, wherein the layer flexible material has a thickness equal to or greater than a thickness of the other of the handle and the kill bar control received within the channel.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Canceled)

56. (Canceled)

57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the opening extends completely through the compressible outer surface.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein the tube has a thickness greater than or equal to a thickness of the blade ~~control~~ received within the opening.

62. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 36, wherein the gap extends completely through the flexible member.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 36, wherein the flexible member has a thickness greater than or equal to a thickness of the kill bar ~~control~~ received within the gap.

64. (New) A lawnmower comprising:

a frame;

wheels movably supporting the frame;

a blade configured to rotate about a vertical axis;

a handle coupled to the frame and having a substantially horizontal manual gripping portion;

a kill bar configured pivot between a first position proximate the handle in which movement of the blade is permitted and a second position distant the handle in which movement of the blade is slowed or stopped; and

a compressible layer extending partially about the handle so as to form a channel adjacent to and along the handle, the channel being oriented and sized so as to receive the kill bar without substantial deformation of the layer when the kill bar is pivoted to the first position.

65. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the compressible layer comprises a slitted tube.

66. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the channel has a depth so as to extend at least 120 degrees about the kill bar when the kill bar is in the first position.

67. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the compressible layer is removably positioned about the handle.

68. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the compressible layer has an exterior surface configured to absorb or wick away perspiration.

69. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the compressible layer comprises a tube having an inner diameter less than an inner diameter of the handle.

70. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the compressible layer comprises a two in one formed as a new unitary body of a single material.

71. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the compressible layer has an outer surface that is grooved.

72. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the compressible layer has an outer surface that is textured.

73. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the channel has a depth so as to extend at least 180 degrees about the kill bar when the kill bar is in the first position.

74. (New) The lawnmower of Claim 64, wherein the channel has a depth so as to extend at least 270 degrees about the kill bar when the kill bar is in the first position.